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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,236	11/09/2001	James F. Zucherman	KLYC-01056US8	6669
23910 7590 04/05/2005			SRM/SDS	
FLIESLER MEYER, LLP			EXAMINER	
FOUR EMBARCADERO CENTER			REIP, DAVID OWEN	
SUITE 400			ART UNIT	
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111			PAPER NUMBER	
			3731	

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

9P

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/037,236	Applicant(s) ZUCHERMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner David O. Reip	Art Unit 3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 60-67, 97, 106 and 108-118 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 60-66, 97, 106, 108-110 and 112-118 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 67 and 111 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____   |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/17/02, 4/15/02, 9/29/03, 9/29/04,</u>                                   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____                                     |
| <u>1/31/05</u>   |   |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election without traverse of species A/7 in the reply filed on 1/31/03 is acknowledged. Claims 60-67, 97, 106, and 108-118, seen to read on the elected species, have been examined on the merits.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 60, 61, 109, 112, and 114-116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Voydeville Gilles (FR 2724554) (hereafter "Voydeville"). Figs. 1-4 of Voydeville show an implant for placing between spinous processes, the implant having all the limitations as recited in the above listed claims, including: a "body" comprising the combination of elements 5 and 6; a "shaft" 2; a compressible cylindrical spacer 1 rotatably mounted on the "shaft" 2; a first "wing" 3; and a second "wing" 4.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

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the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 62-66, 97, 106, 108, 110, 113, 117, and 118 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voydeville. As previously discussed, Voydeville shows a device that is basically the same as that recited in the above listed claims. However, Voydeville does not show the spacer having alternative shapes of elliptical, oval, and egg-shaped. Further, although Voydeville discloses that the spacer 1 is made of a "semi-rigid" material, the reference is silent as to the specific material of

construction. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the spacer to have any anatomically compatible cross-sectional shape, including elliptical, oval, and egg-shaped as claimed, and further to select any biocompatible, semi-rigid material as a suitable material of construction, including silicone, high molecular weight polymer, thermoplastic elastomer, or polycarbonate urethane as claimed.

***Allowable Subject Matter***


Claims 67 and 111 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David O. Reip whose telephone number is 571-272-4702. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 A.M.- 4 P.M. Mon-Thu and every other Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David O. Reip". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a stylized "R".

David O. Reip  
Primary Examiner  
AU 3731